(b) whether this will result in upgradation of the standards of our major Airports to bring them at par with international standards; and

(c) if so, the time-frame within which these improvements will take place?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) It has been decided to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable through long-term lease to bring the standards of services/facilities at par with the international standards. At present, the existing airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are being taken up for this exercise. The process is likely to take approximately one year.

Decline in Container Handling at Mumbai Airport

1219. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the container handling is decreasing day by day in Mumbai Airport; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same alongwith the details for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The records of cargo tonnage, rather than containers handled, are maintained at Mumbai Airport. The volume of cargo depends upon the demand. The details of international and domestic cargo handled at Mumbai airport for the last five years are as under:—

Total Quantum handled at *(In Metric Tonne)*

Year	International Airport	Domestic Airport
1994-95	1,59,111	47184
1995-96	1,84,059	50591
1996-97	2,00,202	54432
1997-98	1,95,992	57623
1998-99	1,84,662	58922